

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-09

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EUR-12 IO-10 /086 W

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R 070728Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5133

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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TAGS: PFO, XF, IS

SUBJ: INITIAL ISRAELI REACTION TO CAIRO QUADRIpartite CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY. ISRAELI PRESS, IN INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF CAIRO QUADRIpartite CONFERENCE, REFLECTS CONFUSION RE ITS IMPACT ON INTER-ARAB RELATIONS. TENTATIVE CONCLUSION OF SOME COMMENTATORS IS THAT TOUGH ISSUES, PARTICULARLY THOSE INVOLVING JORDANIAN-PLO RELATIONSHIP, REMAIN UNRESOLVED. END SUMMARY.

2. ISRAELI PRESS JAN 5-6 REFLECTS OVERALL INTEREST HERE IN RESULTS OF CAIRO QUADRIpartite CONFERENCE. CONSENSUS APPEARS TO BE THAT, WHILE RESUMPTION OF NORMAL BILATERAL CONTACTS BETWEEN JORDAN AND PLO IS SIGNIFICANT, MEETING WHICH HAD BEEN ADVERTISED (AT LEAST IN ISRAEL) AS BEGINNING PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING RABAT DECISIONS APPARENTLY FELL SHORT OF EXPECTATIONS. COMMENTATORS NOTE IN PARTICULAR LACK OF PROGRESS IN REACTIVATING "EASTERN FRONT", BUT IN PROCESS REFLECT CONCERN OVER THIS ISSUE.

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3. DAVAR EDITORIAL NOTES THAT CAIRO CONFERENCE SUCCEEDED IN UNFREEZING RELATIONS BETWEEN JORDAN AND PLO, BUT ADDS THAT IT WAS ALSO SUPPOSED TO SETTLE DISPUTE BETWEEN EGYPT AND SYRIA OVER RELATIVE MERITS OF UNILATERAL EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATION FOR SECOND STAGE ACCORD WITH ISRAEL UNDER US MEDIATION VERSUS EARLY RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE. DAVAR NOTES THAT EVEN WHILE CAIRO CONFERENCE WAS IN SESSION SYRIA WAS TRYING TO SABOTAGE EGYPTIAN TENDENCY TO "GO IT ALONE", BOTH BY OFFERING LEBANON MILITARY ASSISTANCE ON ISRAEL-

LEBANESE BORDER AND BY PRESSURING JORDAN TO JOIN EASTERN FRONT. SYRIA IS AWARE THAT EITHER DEVELOPMENT WOULD CONTAIN DANGER OF ESCALATION INTO WHICH EGYPT MIGHT BE DRAWN. DAVAR CONCLUDES THAT BOTH SYRIANS AND PLO WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO BRING EGYPT INTO LINE, WITH EXTENT OF THEIR SUCCESS DETERMINING PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER SETTLEMENT IN SINAI.

4. AL HAMISHMAR (KAPELIUK, ARAB AFFAIRS SPECIALIST) TAKES DIFFERENT TACK REGARDING EGYPTIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD REACTIVATION OF EASTERN FRONT. ACCORDING HIS VIEW, ONE OF OBJECTIVES OF CAIRO CONFERENCE WAS TO MAKE JORDANIAN FRONT MORE EFFECTIVE IN EVENT OF ANOTHER WAR. THIS WOULD NECESSITATE PARTICIPATION OF PLO. AMMAN, HOWEVER, HAS NO INTENTION OF GRANTING PLO PERMISSION TO UNDERTAKE ACTIVITIES AGAINST ISRAEL FROM JORDANINA TERRITORY. KAPELIUK BELIEVES THAT SADAT WILL BE GOING TO AMMAN, ON FIRST SUCH VISIT BY ANY EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT, IN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN BY " PERSONAL CONTACT" WHAT CONFERENCE FAILED TO ACHIEVE. KAPELIUK ALSO CITES AS POSITIVE RESULT OF CONFERENCE FACT THAT JORDAN DECIDED TO CONTINUE ITS PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE WRITES THAT JORDAN DECIDED ONLY AT LAST MINUTE AND AT EGYPTIAN ADVICE AGAINST SERVERING ITS GENEVA TIE, STEP WHICH WOULD HAVE CREATED MANY DIFFICULTIES SHOULD GENEVA TALKS RESUME.

5. YEDIOT (KARUS) SEE CAIRO CONFERENCE AS HAVING FAILED IN PRIMARY AIM OF ESTABLISHING JOINT FRONT AMONG CONFRONTATION STATES. ACCORDING KARUZ, JOINT POLITICAL FRONT IS VIEWED AS IMPORTANT PRIMARILY IN CONTEXT OF GENEVA, WHERE JORDANIAN INVOLVEMENT CONSIDERED VITAL. IT IS THROUGH JORDANINA PARTICIPATION, IN OPINION OF " ATHE ARAB GOVERNMENTS AND PROBABLY SOME OTHERS", THAT PLO WOULD BE ABLE TO JOIN IN PROCEEDINGS AT GENEVA.

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6. HATZOFEH CARRIES REUTER DISPATCH FROM BEIRUT QUOTING PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY REPORT THAT JORDAN EVADED BASIC QUESTIONS AT CAIRO BECAUSE IT IS NOW COUNTING ON " SECRET US PROPOSAL" RECENTLY TRANSMITTED TO AMMAN WHICH REFERS TO " DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT" BETWEEN JORDAN AND ISRAEL.

7. COMMENT: ISRAELIS ARE CLEARLY NOT YET CERTAIN EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED IN CAIRO. THEY WILL CONTINUE TO SCRUTINIZE

CAREFULLY EVOLUTION OF JORDANIAN-PLO RELATIONS FOR ANY
SIGN THAT HUSSEIN MAY BE WILLING TO MAKE MAJOR CONCESSIONS,
SUCH AS ALLOWING PLO GREATER FREEDOM OF ACTION ON JORDANIAN
TERRITORY.
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